3

HARLEY QUINN

PHILLIPS
ROSSMO
PLASCENCIA

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER?

LIKE HELL!

BITE ME

FANBOY

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DC

CRUSH & LOBO

WRITTEN BY MARIKO TAMAKI
ART BY AMANCAY NAHUELPAN

A NEW 8-ISSUE SERIES
ON SALE NOW

B.CHANG after BISLEY

S.A.F.E. HEADQUARTERS.
GOTHAM.

NO!

MAKE IT STOP!

VITALS ARE STRONG...

JOKER

...HEART RATE STEADY...

...BLOOD PRESSURE STEADY...

...UP THE DOSAGE AGAIN.

AHH!

H!

VITALS DROPPING, SIR!

ARGHHHH!

HEART RATE ACCELERATING! WE NEED A SEDATIVE OR--

NOT YET.

BUT... SIR...WE WILL LOSE HIM IF WE DON'T--

BEEP

MRRRMMHMM!

BEEEP

BEEEP

DAMMIT. IT'S STILL TOO STRONG.

HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE THE NEXT DELIVERY, LOCKWOOD?

NEXT WEEK, BUT IF THE DRUG NEEDS FURTHER MODIFICATIONS THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER DELAY FROM THE SUPPLIER.

THE RATIO IS CLEARLY STILL OFF.

THEY'RE GOING TO NEED TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS... BUT OFFER AN INCENTIVE FOR PROMPT DELIVERY.

UNGH!

HRAH!

WE'RE LOSING HIM!

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

I DON'T WANT TO WAIT ANOTHER WEEK FOR MORE TRIALS...

BACK IN GRAD SCHOOL, WE READ ABOUT THIS DOCTOR IN LIKE THE 1800s WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHERE SMILES COME FROM...

...WE'RE ALREADY BEHIND SCHEDULE AND WE'LL NEED MORE BODIES FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF TESTING.

HAVE YOU KEPT TABS ON ***HARLEY QUINN*** AS I REQUESTED?

WE'VE BEEN TRACKING THE VAN SHE STOLE, HUGO.

GOOD. IT'S TIME WE MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF QUINN...

...AND I'D LIKE ***YOU*** TO SEE TO HER ***RETRIEVAL*** PERSONALLY, LOCKWOOD.

...SEEMS SIMPLE, RIGHT? PEOPLE FEEL ***HAPPY***...THEY SMILE...

DING

LVL

NO MORE ***AMATEUR*** MISTAKES...

THAT ***CLOWN*** WON'T MAKE ***US*** LOOK LIKE A ***JOKE*** AGAIN.

BUT, AFTER PERFORMIN' EXPERIMENTS ON SEVERED PRISONER HEADS WITH ELECTRICITY--***REMIND YOU OF ANY CRAZY DOCTORS AROUND HERE?***--THIS DOC SAID THAT THERE'S MORE THAN ***ONE*** TYPE OF SMILE...

...A **REAL** SMILE ENGAGES TWO SPECIFIC MUSCLE GROUPS...

WELCOME TO THE FIRST-EVER COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP FOR--

...WHICH MEANS THAT THERE ARE **LOTS** OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF SMILES AND THEY DON'T ALL MEAN **HAPPY.**

OH...

MAYBE THEY'RE JUST... ***FASHIONABLY LATE...***

...ISN'T IT A RULE TO NOT SHOW UP PLACES EARLY?

THAT'S FOR ***PARTIES,*** KEVIN. NOT EMOTIONAL SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PEOPLE WHO USED TO WORK FOR A HOMICIDAL MANIAC IN A CLOWN COSTUME.

LIKE THAT ONE RIGHT THERE...

I'M SURE THEY'LL COME, HARLEY.

...THAT ONE'S A **PITY** SMILE.

I'VE BEEN GETTIN' **THAT** SMILE A LOT LATELY...

I DON'T GET IT... I HUNG UP FLIERS...I POSTED ABOUT IT ONLINE...

MAYBE THEY JUST--

...MAYBE THIS WAS A ***DUMB*** IDEA. WITH HUGO AND HIS ***STUPID*** S.A.F.E. PROGRAM, NO ONE IS GOIN' TO--

EXCUSE ME...

EXIT

...IS THIS THE SUPPORT GROUP?

ARE WE IN THE RIGHT PLACE?

...AND I'VE BEEN GIVING THIS ONE. I CALL IT THE **TRYING-TO-NOT-BE-A-GARBAGE-HUMAN** SMILE.

NO...I MEAN...YES! YOU FOUND IT! WE WERE JUST GETTING READY TO START.

HI! I'M KEVIN.

BUT, WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE?

THEY'RE JUST... THEY'RE... UM...

...THEY'RE ***FASHIONABLY LATE.***

IT'S...A WORK IN PROGRESS.

WHICH MEANS THAT YOU GET TO PICK THE ***BEST*** SEAT.

AND DONUTS! THERE'S EVEN A ***JELLY-FILLED*** LEFT.

I ***TOLD*** YOU THEY'D SHOW UP, KEV!

THIS IS GREAT. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY?

I WROTE THREE DIFFERENT OPENING LINES... BUT I'M THINKIN' I START WITH A JOKE TO BREAK THE ICE.

IT'LL MAKE ME SEEM REAL RELATABLE, YA KNOW?

THANKS... THANK YOU ALL FOR COMIN'...I'M HARLEY QUINN... AND I'M AN ***ADDICT.***

...ADDICTED TO ***POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH,*** THAT IS.

DID YOU NOT GET IT--? IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE HERE TO HELP EACH OTHER BUT IT'S THE SAME SET-UP AS...

YOU KNOW WHAT? FORGET IT...

LIKE I WAS SAYIN', I'M HARLEY QUINN AND I HAVE A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY...

THIS DEGREE GIVES ME THE TOOLS NEEDED TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE WE MIGHT COLLECTIVELY DEVISE STRATEGIES FOR--

@#*€... MY NOTES...

WE'RE HERE TO...TO UM...HELP EACH OTHER FIND STRATEGIES FOR...

...EGGS AND LICORICE... WHAT? NO!

SORRY... THAT'S MY GROCERY LIST...I...I'M SORRY...

LOOK...I KNOW IT'S WEIRD TO SIT IN A CIRCLE OF STRANGERS AND TALK ABOUT HOW YOU ***FEEL.***

IT'S WEIRD FOR ME, TOO. I'M...WELL, I'M NOT ALWAYS THE BEST AT EXPRESSIN' MY ***FEELINGS.***

BUT I'M HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP ALL OF US FIND A WAY TO DEAL WITH THINGS WE SAW, OR MAYBE BAD DECISIONS WE MADE.

AND, BELIEVE ME, I'VE MADE ***LOTS*** OF BAD DECISIONS.

SO...I DON'T KNOW...MAYBE THIS WILL LEAD TO A WAY WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER...ASK QUESTIONS AND FIND A WAY FORWARD...

...OR EVEN JUST FIND SOMEONE TO HAVE A COFFEE WITH WHO ***UNDERSTANDS*** YOU.

WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF? MAYBE TELL THE GROUP A LITTLE ABOUT WHY YOU'RE HERE?

...ANYONE?

IF NO ONE WANTS TO TALK, THEN I GUESS WE COULD--

FINE... I GUESS I'LL GO...

HI...I'M ERIC AND...IT'S JUST...AFTER THE JOKER WAR...AFTER EVERYTHING THE JOKER MADE US DO...THE WAY HE GOT IN MY HEAD AND JUST...JUST TWISTED THINGS...I KEEP THINKING...

...I KEEP THINKING THAT MAYBE THIS GUY HUGO HAS A POINT...

...MAYBE THE CLOWNS DON'T DESERVE NORMAL.

THEY DON'T.

EXCUSE ME? I DON'T THINK YOU MEAN TO SAY--

I MEANT WHAT I SAID. THE CLOWNS DON'T DESERVE A NORMAL LIFE.

I THINK WHAT YOU'RE BOTH EXPRESSING IS A SENSE OF GUILT AND--

NO...I'M SAYING THAT ALL CLOWNS SHOULD BE LOCKED UP FOR GOOD.

WAIT... LOCKWOOD?

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE ARKHAM. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HUGO STRANGE AND I BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY WAY TO HELP A CLOWN IS TO PUT THEM IN A NICE PADDED CELL...

...I'M HERE TO HELP BRING THESE CRIMINALS TO THE JUSTICE THEY DESERVE.

YOU'RE WORKIN' WITH HUGO?! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN A WEASEL LIKE YOU'D--

...BRING REINFORCEMENTS...

ZZP

ROUND 'EM UP!

YOU SHOULDN'T FIGHT IT, HARLEY. WE'RE JUST HERE TO HELP.

ZZZAP

THEN YOU'VE GOT A WEIRD IDEA OF WHAT *HELP* LOOKS LIKE...

DID HUGO'S JOB ADVERTISEMENT SPECIFICALLY SAY *"SADISTS APPLY HERE"*...?

...OR IS THERE A SPECIFIC RECRUITER WHO HELPS WITH THAT?

YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY THINK THAT YOUR LITTLE *CLOWNS ANONYMOUS* MEETING WAS GOING TO FIX ANYTHING...

YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS TO THE PROFESSIONALS.

I AM A PROFESSIONAL...

...I HAVE A *** **** PHD.!

GRAB HER!

OOF!

ZZZAP

LET GO!

PLEASE... HELP!

UNGH!

YOU WERE ALWAYS ONE OF MY FAVORITES, HARLEY, YOU KNOW THAT?

THIS IS THE WORST THERAPY SESSION EVER!

ONE OF YOUR *FAVORITES?*

HATE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ONES YOU *DIDN'T* LIKE.

I LIKED THE ONES WHO DIDN'T BREAK *EASILY...*

...BUT STILL BROKE IN THE END.

AAAGH!

THE *HOTSHOT* YOUNG DOCTOR WHO THREW IT ALL AWAY FOR THE COURT JESTER.

AT LEAST *NOW* WE CAN GET YOU THE HELP YOU CLEARLY NEED.

MRRRLOCKWOODMRRR...

HARLEY!

NO!

AND, GOOD NEWS...WE CAN HELP THAT CHUBBY FELLOW WITH THE TERRIBLE TATTOOS...

...HOPEFULLY WITH A *LOBOTOMY.*

YOU KNOW...

...YOU WERE MY FAVORITE, TOO, LOCK-WOOD...

NNGH!

AAGH!

...MY FAVORITE TO IMAGINE BEATING ***SAVAGELY*** WITH VARIOUS PIECES OF LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT.

KRAKT

WHAKT

PFOOF!

RRGH!

MIND IF I BORROW? THANKS...

YOU SHOULDN'T FIGHT **CHANGE,** HARLEY...

I'M NOT...

...I'M FIGHTING...

...A **CLEARLY** DELUSIONAL...

...HUGO STRANGE WANNABE!

I MEANT ***YOU,*** IF THAT WASN'T CLEAR.

DID YOU ALL HAVE TWIN DAY AT WORK...

...OR DOES HUGO MAKE ALL HIS LAPDOGS SHAVE THEIR HEADS LIKE HIM?

IF YOUR JOKES ARE A PATHETIC WAY TO COVER YOUR OWN FAILURES...

...YOU'RE TRULY IN WORSE SHAPE THAN I THOUGHT, QUINN.

GET THE PATIENTS OUT OF HERE!

KEVIN!

NEVER GET INTO A VAN WITH STRANGERS!

THESE GUYS DIDN'T EVEN HAVE CANDY!

KSSSH

SURE, LET'S GIVE PSYCHIATRIC ORDERLIES ELECTRIFIED CATTLE PRODS...

...WHAT COULD GO RIGHT?

THESE CAR SHARE SERVICES ARE GETTIN' INTENSE...

GRAB HER!

SKREEEE

CHOMPF

YAAAGH!

ALLEZ...

...OOPSIE.

EXCUSE ME, SIR, ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU DIDN'T SIGNAL BEFORE STUFFING STRANGERS INTO YOUR UNMARKED VAN AGAINST THEIR WILL?

KSSH

GET.

OFF.

I'M COMING IN THERE, LOCKWOOD!

HANDS AT TEN AND FOUR, DUDE...

OOPH!

SKRAASH

HARLEY QUINN!

YOU CAN'T HIDE, HARLEY...I WILL FIND YOU!

I HAVE YOUR FRIENDS...

...AND NOW THEY ALL KNOW THAT HARLEY QUINN IS A FAILURE.

NO DUMPING

MR. J USED TO CONSTANTLY TELL ME TO SMILE. AND I WISH I COULD SAY THAT'S THE CREEPIEST THING HE TOLD ME TO DO...

...HE WOULD SAY THAT NO MATTER HOW ANGRY...

...NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN YOU'RE IN...

...THAT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS FACE THE WORLD WITH A SMILE.

A SMILE KEEPS PEOPLE GUESSIN'.

BUT SMILES AREN'T A **TRICK**...THEY'RE **PSYCHOLOGY.**

OVER-EXAGGERATED SMILES THAT ENGAGE THE EYES...THEY'RE **FAKE**...

NOTHIN' BUT A BIG OLD FAT LIE...

EVEN THE SMILES THAT MELT YOUR COLD LITTLE CLOWN HEART FASTER THAN AN ICE CUBE ON A FLORIDA SIDEWALK IN SUMMER...

...EVEN **THAT** SMILE...THE **BEST** SMILE...IS JUST TRIGGERING AN AUTOMATED RESPONSE OF COMFORT AND CONNECTION.

IT'S WHY PEOPLE CONSTANTLY SAY THAT CHEESY LINE, "OH, I JUST LOVE HIS SMILE..."

SPEAKING OF...

I GUESS WE CAN SKIP OVER EVERYONE'S FAVORITE **GOTH** VIGILANTE IN THIS PARTICULAR RANT.

THEN WE'VE GOT **PREDATORY** SMILES... LIKE AN ANIMAL BEARIN' ITS TEETH. A **WARNIN'.**

OR, AN INVITATION INTO A **CREEPY** UNMARKED VAN FILLED WITH ALL-MALE ORDERLIES. EITHER OR.

IN SOME WAYS, MR. J'S SMILE IS HONEST...

...HONESTLY DISTURBING.

SMILES CAN TELL YOU MORE ABOUT A PERSON THAN YOU MIGHT THINK...

AND **SOME** SMILES ARE TRULY GENUINE. NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE... JUST...**HONEST.**

OOF!

GRRR...

CROC, IF THAT'S YOU, I AM NOT BAKING YOU *ANOTHER* CAKE...

...BORN ON A...

...MONDAY!

HEY, *GRUNDY*...OLD PAL...HOW'S...THE SEWER? SEEMS... UNUSUALLY CROWDED DOWN HERE LATELY...

NO GOOD DEED

Part 1

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PAUL DINI AND **BRUCE TIMM**

SMILES MIGHT BE COMPLICATED...

...BUT A GIANT, ZOMBIE-LIKE MONSTER SNARLING AT YOU IN A SEWER...

...WELL, THAT'S PRETTY €$% STRAIGHTFORWARD...*

Selina is back in Gotham to pull off her greatest heist yet...but at what cost?

A new graphic novel for young adults

JUNE 2021

CATWOMAN

SOULSTEALER

Written by
Sarah J. Maas

Adapted by
Louise Simonson

Illustrated by
Samantha Dodge

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

THE NICE HOUSE ON THE LAKE

INTERVIEW WITH JAMES TYNION IV

A getaway with friends turns into something truly terrifying in *The Nice House on the Lake*, a new DC Black Label series from writer James Tynion IV and artist Álvaro Martínez Bueno.

Both *Batman* and *The Joker* have significant horror undertones, and *The Nice House on the Lake* is your most overt horror series for DC yet. What commonalities do you see in the themes you're exploring this year?

I've always thought of myself as a horror writer. I like taking the things that I'm afraid of and turning them into monsters for my characters to grapple with. *Batman* and *The Joker* deal with a lot of the things that scare me right now about society. *The Nice House on the Lake* is trying to hit at a deeper nerve, and the goal is to reach that final moment and sit with the horror rather than turn away.

This isn't an action comic book; this is a character-driven story where people need to grapple with living in a seeming paradise that they *know* is not a paradise. It's about the cognitive dissonance of trying to relax in comfort when you know that the world around you is falling apart. It's also a story about how friendship evolves as you enter adulthood, and how you can't recapture the bonds of youth in your adult life.

What's it like collaborating with Álvaro Martínez Bueno on this series after your extensive work together in the superhero world?

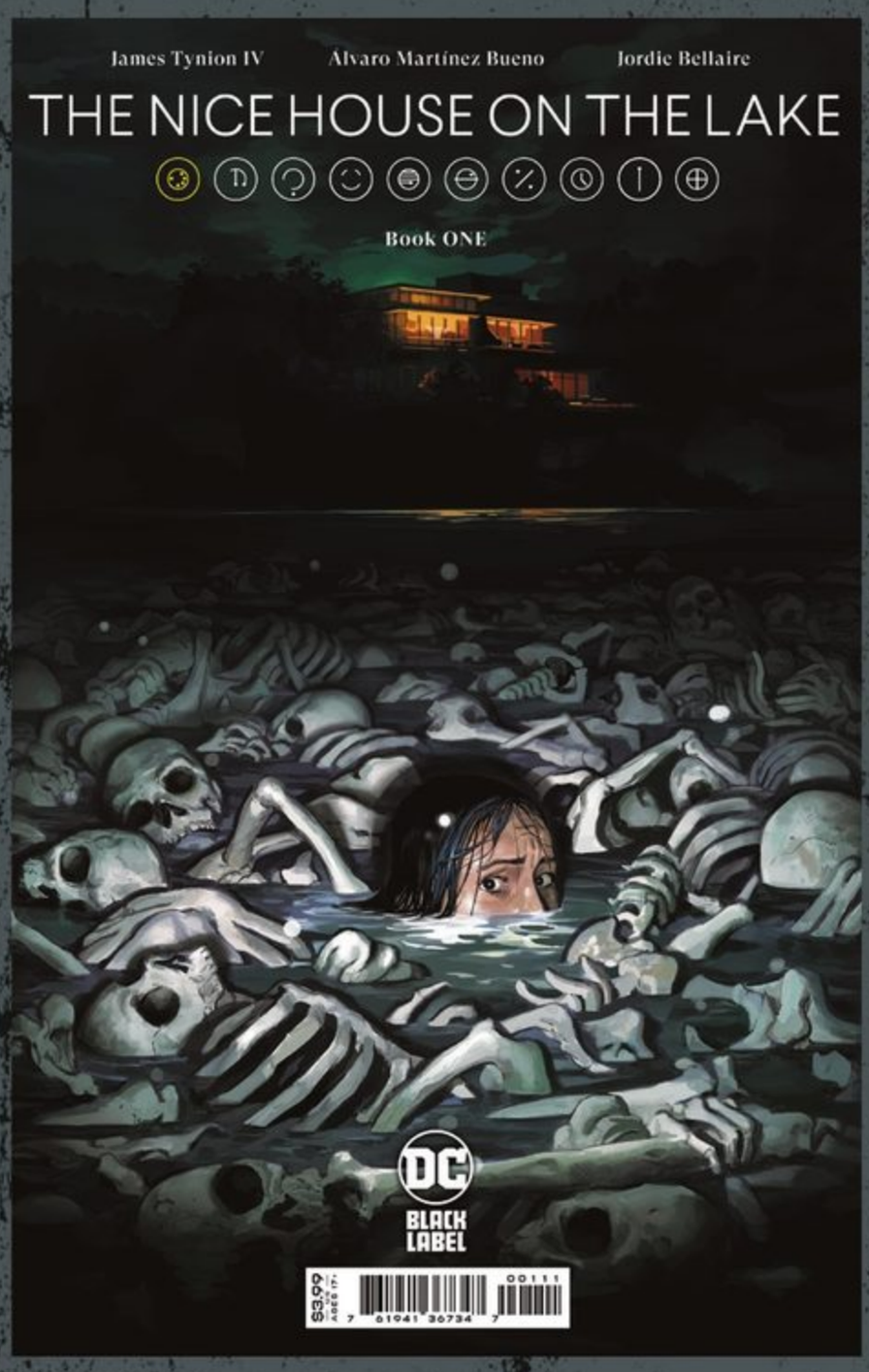
The best thing is that we were given the time to develop the book—Álvaro spent months designing the characters and the titular "nice house" before he started drawing the book itself.

How did you arrive at upstate Wisconsin as the setting for the series?

I grew up in the suburbs of Milwaukee, so I'm always going to default to Wisconsin-based stories, particularly when I'm drawing directly from my own experience of growing up (which I absolutely am in this series). Other Wisconsin natives will look at some of the art and think, "Wait. There aren't mountains in Wisconsin." And trust me, that's something the characters are going to notice, too.

Is there a character you most identify with in the series?

Oh, absolutely. I'm the villain of the story.



DON'T MISS
THE NICE HOUSE ON THE LAKE #1,
ON SALE IN JUNE!

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